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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THOM-SON LICENSING S.A. [FR/FR]; 46, Quai A. Le Gallo, F-92648 Boulogne Cedex (FR).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): WEBER, Rudolf [CH/CH]; Bergstr. 56, CH-8706 Meilen (CH).

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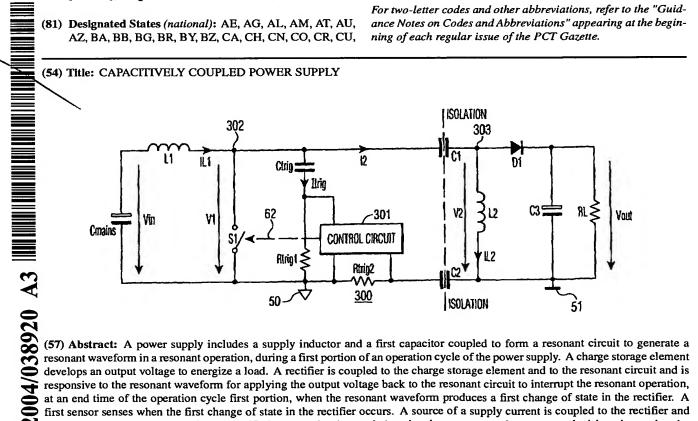
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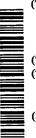
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-



at an end time of the operation cycle first portion, when the resonant waveform produces a first change of state in the rectifier. A first sensor senses when the first change of state in the rectifier occurs. A source of a supply current is coupled to the rectifier and rectified in the rectifier to produce a rectified current that is coupled to the charge storage element to replenish a charge therein, during a second portion of the operation cycle. A switching transistor is responsive to an output signal of the first sensor for enabling the supply current to be coupled to the rectifier, during the operation cycle second portion, and for disabling the supply current from being coupled to the rectifier, during the operation cycle first portion.





## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H02M3/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 HO2M Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X EP 0 696 841 A (HEWLETT PACKARD CO) 1-11 14 February 1996 (1996-02-14) column 1, line 34 -column 2, line 27; figure 2 X US 6 144 565 A (LETHELLIER PATRICE R) 1 - 117 November 2000 (2000-11-07) column 3; figure 4 Α LLOYD DIXON: "High Power factor preregulator Using the Sepic Converter" UNITRODE POWER SUPPLY DESIGN SEMINAR 'Online! 1993, XP002277199 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://focus.ti.com/lit/ml/slup103/sl</pre> up103.pdf> 'retrieved on 2004-04-19! page 6; figures 1.5 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents : \*T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 19 April 2004 04/05/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016

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